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Atty. Dkt. No. 053466-0420  
Pat. Appln. Ser. No. 10/593,776

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Masato FUJIOKA et al.

Title: THERAPEUTIC AGENTS FOR  
INNER EAR DISORDERS  
CONTAINING AN IL-6  
ANTAGONIST AS AN ACTIVE  
INGREDIENT

Appl. No.: 10/593,776

International 3/24/2005

Filing Date:

371(c) Date: 9/22/06

Examiner: Prema Maria Mertz

Art Unit: 1646

Confirmation 4182

Number:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 02, 2007, Applicant hereby provisionally elects the subject matter of Group II, claims 16-45, directed towards methods of treatment.

Applicant also provisionally elect the species of sensorineural hearing loss caused by Meniere's disease to serve as the starting point for the Examiner's search. Applicant understands that once the elected species is determined to be patentable, the Examiner will examine the full scope of the claims.

Prior to examination of the present Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: